



Kansas City, MO Policy Agenda (2023)

Approved and Adopted by KC Chamber Board of Directors, June 26, 2023

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce (KC Chamber) is committed to working with policymakers and civic leaders to advocate for a robust business community and inclusive prosperity. We support sustainable solutions to grow our city while closing opportunity gaps in economic and workforce development. We also support improving healthcare and social and criminal justice measures as essential elements of success in achieving these goals. Kansas City has the opportunity to progress towards the accomplishment of these community goals in the coming years as we build upon the opening of a new world class air terminal and hosting the NFL Draft and FIFA World Cup. These events will attract attention from across the globe. We must leverage that elevated profile to create and maintain state-of-the-art infrastructure and systems that advance prosperity for all and will remain as permanent benefits in our city from these transitory events. Our 2,000 members know a healthy Kansas City, MO is critical to the success of the region and state. Working together, the KC business community and the City of Kansas City can achieve a shared vision for a more prosperous, vibrant, and inclusive city. The KC Chamber looks forward to collaborating with the Kansas City Mayor and City Council as we work toward implementing inclusive growth-oriented strategies in three key areas.

Quality of Life

The KC Chamber values the work of City leaders to make Kansas City a great place in which to live, work and raise a family and looks forward to partnering with the City to support the following:

- A. **Public Safety.** Measures to reduce violent crime, promote social justice, increase transparency and trust between law enforcement and the community, and enhance opportunities for formerly incarcerated residents.
- B. **Education.** Improved access to quality public education, early childhood education, and care that meets the needs of Kansas City's families and workforce.
- C. **Inclusiveness.** Measures to make Kansas City a welcoming community to all populations including minorities, immigrants, veterans, and LGBTQ+ individuals.
- D. **Job Creation.** Policies to attract quality new jobs to Kansas City for residents of all education levels and diverse abilities in order to advance prosperity for all.
- E. **Housing.** Strategies to improve access to quality, healthy, and attainable housing.
- F. **Regional Policy Making.** Collaboration with other local governments and state and regional policymakers to advance the strategic advantages of the bi-state, multi-county region.

Inclusive Prosperous Development

The KC Chamber supports policies to advance the following:

- A. **Support for Growth and Development.** Increased efficiency and reduction of red tape in City regulatory policies, as well as the processes to implement those policies, to enhance business development, real estate development, and successful launching of small and minority-owned businesses in Kansas City.

- B. **New Real Estate Development.** System-wide understanding of the need for, and active support of, new real estate development that enhances the community’s fiscal health and adds to the City’s tax base, while encouraging development that achieves City policy objectives, generates new tax revenues, and minimizes the diversion of new taxes when possible.
- C. **Inclusive Growth.** Growth-oriented inclusive development, build on Kansas City’s competitive advantages, and advance prosperity throughout Kansas City with special attention to opportunities and needs of distressed neighborhoods and key commerce centers.
- D. **Transportation.** Growth-oriented mobility, transit, and multi-modal transportation infrastructure, with particular attention to improving access to jobs from our chronically distressed neighborhoods.
- E. **Support Small and Minority-Owned Businesses.** Targeted support for Kansas City’s small businesses (top job creators), with special attention to minority and women-owned businesses and businesses located in under-resourced neighborhoods. Efforts to make Kansas City a sought-after location for real estate development and capital investment and to eliminate challenges that cause businesses to choose locations outside of the City.

City Operations

The KC Chamber applauds measures taken by City leaders to improve efficiency and innovation in city operations and supports policy to achieve the following:

- A. **City Operations.** Efficient, transparent, and inclusive city governance that reduces barriers to growth and makes timely, data-informed decisions that encourage and support business activity while ensuring equity and consistency throughout all City operations.
- B. **Public Investments.** Responsible, data-informed investment in city infrastructure, basic services, and public safety.
- C. **Municipal Finances.** Responsible fiscal policies that support sustainable prosperity for the City, its businesses, and residents.
- D. **Collaboration Within City Hall.** Work to break down silos in City operations that impede the City’s ability to efficiently address the needs of business.
- E. **Problem Solving.** Bring diverse thinking and inclusive city voices to discussions to identify and employ innovative solutions to City challenges.

This Public Policy Agenda will be used to guide the policy positions and advocacy of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. Statements in this document should not be construed to be official KC Chamber positions on specific Kansas City, MO policies, ordinances, or resolutions. This agenda is a living document and is eligible for review and editing throughout the year and at a minimum on an annual basis. The order in which the above strategies are listed is not reflective of prioritization of the strategies.

KC Chamber Key Contacts

Joe Reardon, President and CEO

Cathy Bennett, Sr. Vice President, Public Policy, bennett@kcchamber.com

Jan Marcason, Local Public Policy Specialist, marcason@kcchamber.com